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## KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

### WASTEWATER REQUIREMENTS FOR BEAUTY SALONS DIRECTING WASTES TO A SEPTIC SYSTEM

#### **Introduction:**

Beauty salons are sometimes proposed in Kansas in areas not served by sanitary sewers. Beauty salons in these areas often discharge their liquid wastes into septic systems. Chemical compounds contained in the products used in these businesses may pose a threat of soil and groundwater contamination. Therefore, KDHE recommends **not** discharging the beauty salon wastes to a septic system. KDHE can be contacted by phone at 785-296-1843 or by email at [khoeffner@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:khoeffner@kdhe.state.ks.us) for assistance in finding an alternative disposal option.

#### **Conditions for Discharge to Septic System:**

If an alternative disposal option is not feasible, discharge of the beauty salon wastewater to a septic tank-leachfield can be considered in certain cases if KDHE determines the discharge does not endanger the public health and the environment. A septic system receiving beauty salon wastes would be considered a Class V injection well subject to regulation under the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations found at KDHE Article 46 – UIC Regulations. The following additional requirements would be required as a Class V well:

1. Per KDHE regulation K.A.R. 28-46-38, the septic system must be inventoried with KDHE as a Class V well receiving industrial wastes.
2. The beauty salon should implement the Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed below in this document.
3. Per KDHE regulation K.A.R. 28-46-27, the Class V wells can not endanger public health or the environment.
4. The discharge to the septic system must have the approval of the appropriate County environmental/health agency.

#### **Recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs):**

The personal care and cosmetics industry is becoming more aware of the environmental impact of their products. Products are now being formulated with less synthetic ingredients and less toxic materials. The beauty shop operator is encouraged to use these types of products whenever feasible and to implement the following:

- Conduct monthly monitoring of inventory and waste generation.

- Use drain traps to prevent hair from entering the septic system and clogging the leachfield distribution system.
- Use products which have longer shelf lives and which can be reused if excess is generated, and use products that are derived from natural ingredients. Avoid the use of petroleum-based products.
- Package systems are available for beauticians that prolong the shelf life of dyes and permanent products and make it easier to use leftovers after these products are mixed for application. This system can reduce the need to dispose of unused leftover products. Because of the cost saving to beauticians, small shops would particularly benefit, since they have relatively infrequent occasion to use the same product again after mixing.
- Order products on an as-needed basis and in appropriate size units to avoid waste.
- Mark purchase date and use older materials first.
- Return unused materials to the vendor if possible.
- Carefully meter formulation of hair dyes, permanent waves, and frosting/bleaches to minimize excess waste. Conservative estimates of needed product should be practiced, preparing more as is necessary.
- Store materials in a controlled, enclosed environment to prolong shelf life, minimize evaporative releases and prevent moisture accumulation.
- Keep containers closed to prevent evaporation, oxidation and spillage.
- Acetone-based artificial nail polish removers can be applied with a cotton ball, using only as much as needed to remove the polish or nail, rather than soaking in a bowl of remover. Any waste should be directed to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility that accepts small quantity hazardous waste or solidified and placed in with regular trash.
- Do not use acetone-based products if avoidable.
- Do not discharge concentrated materials to the septic system. Dispose of these materials in an approved manner and according to label directions.
- Implement measures to reduce waste.